

THE BARKER

of Commodity and an Index
of Prices in the Markets.

CANNED GOODS ATTRACTING ATTENTION

General Undertone Is One of Firm
-California Fruit Shipments
for the Year-Trade Notes.

Office of The Post,
Houston, Texas, November 29.

Canned goods are again attracting particular attention and as a rule the tone is firm. Thomas J. McLean & Co. of Baltimore in their last circular say:

"Two things occurred during the past week which always affect the market differently. Ordinarily a holiday occurring in the middle of a week makes the whole week dull, comparatively, which was not the case this time, because lake and rail navigation closed on Wednesday last, and there was the usual rush to buy goods for shipment in time to get the benefit of the low freight rates. The last three days, therefore, were quite active, and the orders covered fully two-thirds of the whole list of articles. The last two days of the week were fairly active, also, and that fact seems to confirm the impression that there will be a steady demand throughout the winter, which will very likely cause a higher range of values in a majority of the articles packed here."

The articles most in demand in the line of vegetables are tomatoes, string beans and all grades of peas, from the cheapest to the highest priced. Each of these articles is worth prompt attention. In the line of canned fruits there is not a weak spot. Stocks are light, the demand good, and it will be a long time before the next packing season rolls around.

California Fruits.

The New York Commercial says: California deciduous fruit growers will remember the season of 1895 as one of uncertain conditions and many disappointments. A frost injured apricots and peaches, largely reducing the yield. This, coming after a dry winter, was a serious matter for growers and resulted in a general increase in price, but affected other varieties much less. The season opened, therefore, under discouraging conditions, but the income has been more than sufficient to make up the loss. Total number of cases shipped is less than last year, prices have ruled better, and growers have received above as much money.

Comparatively speaking, it is only a short time since deciduous fruits began to come across the continent; but within a few years the yield has increased, orchard plantings have multiplied, and the average yearly shipments to points this side of the Rocky mountains are more than 500,000 cases. Last year the exact figures were 532,000 cases. The market price per bushel reached 500, due to the causes previously outlined.

All fruit markets now take the largest quantity, regrettably, from 1895 onwards. Chinese, however, will 120,000 cases, and the majority of the business is the fact that cars are frequently diverted from their intended destination, market conditions being more favorable at the point of origin; hence a market point may be credited with more or less cases than it actually receives. In this way shippers are enabled to take advantage of good prices everywhere but are liable to pay the highest prices for their products.

Demand for deciduous fruits increases annually. The utilization of refrigerator cars, recently introduced, has greatly increased the fresh as taken from the tree. Consequently, purchases continue increasing.

Prices have been reduced by this same method. Railroad companies have assisted materially in reducing transportation costs.

Statistics of annual shipments from 1890 to 1897, inclusive, are given herewith:

Year.

Pounds.

1890..... 54,650,400

1891..... 56,850,000

1892..... 111,650,000

1893..... 55,900,000

1894..... 54,950,000

1895..... 57,500,000

1896..... 115,650,000

1897..... 115,650,000

1898..... 115,650,000

1899..... 115,650,000

1890-1899..... 54,650,400

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1892-1899..... 111,650,000

1893-1899..... 55,900,000

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1896-1899..... 115,650,000

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